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ON A *BALISTES VETULA* FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.

The American Museum of Natural History has recently received a small collection of fishes from the Museu National at Rio de Janeiro, which contains a specimen of *Balistes vetula* 235 mm. in length to base of caudal, taken at Rio de Janeiro. It was to be expected that this fish would be close to *Balistes vetula trinitatis* from South Trinidad Islet (Nichols and Murphy, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. History XXXIII, 1914, 265). Such, however, is not the case. The specimen under discussion resembles those from the West Indies, except that it is a little deeper. Its head is 2.9 in length to base of caudal, depth 1.7, thickness 2.3 in head. Head bluntly pointed, dorsal and ventral outlines similarly oblique, both gently arched. Dorsal soft rays 30, anal 27. A line drawn from the origin of the soft dorsal to the origin of the anal would cut the lengthwise axis of the body a distance before the base of the caudal contained 2.6 times in the length to base of caudal.

An attempt has been made to explain the differentiation of *trinitatis* from Ascension Island and West Indian *vetula* on the basis of prevailing ocean currents (Nichols and Murphy, COPEIA, 39, 1917, 2). What is said there in regard to Trinidad Islet should, however, apply also to Rio Janeiro, and the present specimen, by resembling West Indian *vetula*, throws doubt on the explanation there advanced. It also throws some doubt on the validity of *trinitatis*, based on a single specimen, which may have been abnormal. It may be, however, that adult fishes moving along the shores are less influenced by prevailing currents than those found off-shore, usually young, and for that reason the currents fail to isolate coastwise *vetula* from respectively north and south of Cape San Roque as they were supposed to have isolated Trinidad Islet individuals. The matter has a bearing

on the marine ichthyfaunæ of isolated islands and distribution by ocean currents greater than its slight systematic interest.

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## NOTES ON SOME ADIRONDACK REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS.

In the spring of 1900, and again in 1901 and 1903, the writer spent from a week to three weeks in the Adirondacks in the vicinity of Axtion, Franklin County, New York, giving courses of lectures on fish culture and fish and game protection to the junior and senior classes of the College of Forestry of Cornell University. Besides the formal lectures, laboratory demonstrations and numerous field trips or excursions were conducted. An effort was made to train the students in making and recording observations on the plants and on the various classes of animals found in the forests, and to give them some familiarity with the mammals and birds of the forest and the fishes of the streams and lakes. Some attention was paid also to the reptiles and amphibians.

It was the practice of Dr. B. E. Farnow, Dean of the College of Forestry, to take the juniors and seniors each spring to the Cornell College Forest where certain phases of forestry work and instruction could be carried on most concretely. The headquarters were at Axtion on the Raquette River, just south of the Tupper and Saranac lakes.

The Raquette River frequently overflows its banks, and near Axtion there is considerable marsh land where frogs are numerous. Within a short distance of Axtion are several small lakes (or ponds, as they are locally called), such as the Spectacle Ponds, Hiawatha, Dawson, Rock, Fallensby and Ampersand, about which there is more or less suitable frog ground. It was about these and in the immediate